



November 30, 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

Conference of State Bank Supervisors

1155 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Fifth Floor, Washington, DC, 20036

Idaho Department of Finance Receives Certificate of Accreditation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) announces that the Idaho Department of Finance has received a certificate of accreditation, certifying that the Department maintains the standards and practices in state banking supervision set by the organization's Accreditation Program. The Idaho Department of Finance was first accredited by CSBS in January of 1990 and has maintained its accreditation for over 20 years.

The Department was originally created by the Idaho State Legislature in 1905, and its mission is to aggressively promote access to vigorous, healthy and comprehensive financial services for Idaho citizens. This is accomplished through prudent and efficient oversight of financial institutions, investment opportunities, and credit transactions.

Gavin Gee is the Director of the Department, and was first appointed as Director in March 1996, after serving a brief stint as Acting Director. Gee joined the Department in 1977 as a Securities Examiner and has held an array of positions, including Securities Bureau Chief and Bureau Chief of the Department's Financial Institutions Bureau. Director Gee is a past-Chairman of CSBS and currently serves on the CSBS Board of Directors. He is also Chairman of the State Regulatory Registry, the wholly owned subsidiary of CSBS that operates the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry on behalf of state mortgage regulators. Gee holds a law degree from the University of Idaho College of Law and an undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University.

The Department regulates banks, bank holding companies, credit unions, trust companies, savings banks, collection agencies, finance companies, money transmitters, mortgage brokers, lenders and individual loan originators, business and industrial development corporations, escrow companies, and securities issuers, broker dealers, salesmen and investment advisors, and endowed care cemeteries. All total, the Department regulates and licenses over 156,470 individuals and businesses operating in Idaho.

“Director Gee continues to serve as a leader among state financial regulators,” said CSBS President and CEO Neil Milner. “Gavin, Financial Institutions Bureau Chief Mary Hughes and their staff have created a regulatory agency that consistently maintains the highest levels of regulatory oversight and consumer protection.”

CONFERENCE OF STATE BANK SUPERVISORS

1155 Connecticut Ave., NW, 5th Floor • Washington DC 20036-4306 • (202) 296-2840 • www.csbs.org

CSBS accreditation seeks to strengthen state banking departments and to demonstrate the high quality of state banking departments to the general public, the federal banking agencies, Congress, and other state banking departments.

The accreditation process begins with completion of an extensive self-evaluation questionnaire on all department operations: administration and finance, personnel, training, examination, supervision, and legislative powers. Next, an external review team comprised of veteran state and federal regulators performs an on-site review and presents its findings to an audit team and to the Performance Standards Committee, the members of which vote on the reports of the review team and the audit team.

#

Media Contact: Catherine Woody, Senior Director of Communications, (202) 728-5733 or cwoody@csbs.org.

The Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) is the nationwide organization for state bank regulation, representing the bank regulators of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. State authorities supervise approximately 6,000 state-chartered financial institutions. Further, the majority of state banking departments also oversee mortgage providers and other financial service providers. CSBS is also responsible for improving the quality of state bank supervision by providing performance evaluation and accreditation programs for the banking departments, as well as supervisory education and training programs for state personnel.